

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05

TRSE-00 SAJ-01 EB-07 COME-00 /072 W

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R 111927Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7755

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 04290

SECDEF FOR DDR&E DR. CURRIE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO' FR

SUBJECT: INDEPENDENT EUROPEAN PROGRAM GROUP (EPG)

REF: (A) PARIS 3688, (B) PARIS 4130, (C) PARIS 2522

1. SUMMARY: DELPECH DISCUSSED EPG AND STANDARDIZATION  
WITH DCM, AND PROVIDED HIM WITH COPY OF DELPECH'S STATE-  
MENT TO FEBRUARY 2 ROME MEETING. WE RECOMMEND DELPECH'S  
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STATEMENT FOR CLOSE WASHINGTON ATTENTION. IT IS BEST

EXPLANATION OF FRENCH POLICY ON INTEROPERABILITY,  
STANDARDIZATION AND EUROPEAN ARMAMENT COOPERATION THAT  
WE HAVE SEEN. END SUMMARY.

2. IN MEETING WITH DCM FEBRUARY 11, DELPECH (FRENCH  
ARMAMENTS DIRECTOR) ADDED TO INFORMATION REPORTED IN  
REFS A AND B CONCERNING FEBRUARY 2 ROME MEETING WHICH  
ESTABLISHED EPG. DELPECH CHAIRED FRENCH DELEGATION AT  
ROME AND PROVIDED DCM WITH A COPY OF HIS OPENING STATE-  
MENT. (DELPECH'S STATEMENT -- CLASSIFIED CONFIDENTIAL--  
POUCHED PM - GOODBY.) HE SAID THAT FRENCH APPROACHED  
EPG FROM "PRACTICAL CASE-BY-CASE" POINT OF VIEW RATHER  
THAN FROM "PHILOSOPHICAL" APPROACH WITH THIS IN  
MIND, AND TO AVOID CHANCE THAT ROME COMMUNIQUE MIGHT  
CREATE DOMESTIC POLITICAL PROBLEMS IN FRANCE AND ELSE-  
WHERE, FRENCH WANTED TO AVOID LONG AND DETAILED  
COMMUNIQUE. COMMUNIQUE FINALLY AGREED TO IN ROME MET  
FRENCH CONCERNS AND DELPECH CONFIRMED THAT THERE HAS  
BEEN NO NEGATIVE POLITICAL FEEDBACK IN PARIS CONCERNING  
FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN ROME MEETING. IN FACT, SAID  
DELPECH, ARCH-GAULLIST MICHEL DEBRE (WHO CAN NORMALLY  
BE RELIED ON TO DEFEND PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY DE  
GAULLE'S LEGACY) MET WITH GISCARD DAY AFTER ROME MEETING  
AND MADE NO CRITICISM OF FRENCH COMPORTMENT AT EPG.

3. WHEN THE DCM ASKED WHAT WEAPONS SYSTEMS THE FRENCH  
HAVE IN MIND FOR EUROPEAN COOPERATION WITHIN FRAMEWORK  
OF EPG, DELPECH CITED FRENCH "MINE HUNTER" SYSTEM AS  
POTENTIAL CANDIDATE.  
HE NOTED THAT BELGIUM AND HOLLAND ARE DIRECTLY INVOLVED  
IN "MINE HUNTER" PROGRAM AND GREAT BRITAIN AND FRG HAVE  
SHOWN SERIOUS INTEREST IN IT. DELPECH BELIEVES THIS  
COULD BE SUBJECT FOR EVEN WIDER EUROPEAN COOPERATION.

4. ON GENERAL SUBJECT OF STANDARDIZATION, DELPECH SAID  
THAT HE AGREED WITH DR. CURRIE'S COMMENTS CONCERNING  
STANDARDIZATION, CONTAINED IN RECENT BUDGET STATEMENT.  
DELPECH OBSERVED THAT FORMER SECDEF SCHLESINGER SEEMED  
TO HAVE HAD DIFFICULTY IN SEEING THAT EUROPE NEEDS TO  
RATIONALIZE ITS OWN ARMAMENT PRODUCTION CAPABILITIES  
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BEFORE IT CAN COMPETE "REALISTICALLY" WITH THE U.S.  
WITHIN ANY GENERAL FRAMEWORK OF NATO STANDARDIZATION.  
HE COMMENTED THAT ORIGINAL US PROPOSAL FOR NATO STAND-  
ARDIZATION WAS "RATIONAL, SINCERE, BUT SHOWED LITTLE  
APPRECIATION FOR TECHNICAL REALITIES." HE UNDERLINED  
THAT IT IS PRECISELY THE TECHNICAL REALITIES THAT POSE  
MOST DIFFICULT PROBLEM FOR EARLY NATO STANDARDIZATION.  
ONCE THE EUROPEANS HAVE OVERCOME TECHNICAL PROBLEMS BY

RENDERING MORE EFFICIENT THEIR OWN INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION  
BASE, NATO STANDARDIZATION WOULD MAKE MORE SENSE. HE  
ADDED THAT IT WAS CLEAR TO HIM THAT US WOULD NEVER  
PERMIT ITSELF TO BECOME DEPENDENT ON EUROPE FOR ITS  
ARMS. AMERICANS SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT FRENCH HARBOR  
SAME TYPE OF CONCERN: EUROPE MUST NOT BECOME DEPENDENT  
ON U.S. FOR ITS ARMS. THIS STILL LAAVES AMPLE ROOM,  
HOWEVER, FOR GREATER COOPERATION AND EVENTUAL STANDARD-  
IZATION.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 04290

5. DELPECH SAID THERE ARE MANY POSSIBILITIES FOR ARMAMENT COOPERATION WITHIN ALLIANCE AND IN SMALLER, MORE RESTRICTIVE COOPERATIVE GROUPINGS (E.G., FRANCO-AMERICAN). WE NEED TO FIND THE RIGHT ROUTE TO MAXIMIZE THESE OPPORTUNITIES FOR COOPERATION. HE SUGGESTED THAT "REAL OPPORTUNITIES" FOR COOPERATION ARE IN R&D AREA. EUROPEANS HAVE IMPORTANT CAPABILITIES IN THIS AREA AND THERE SHOULD BE MORE VIGOROUS EFFORT BY ALL TO WIDEN  
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SCOPE OF COOPERATION ON R&D MATTERS. THIS SHOULD BE "CONCRETE" APPROACH, NOT "PHILOSOPHICAL" DISCUSSION AND IT COULD LEAD TO TYPES OF COOPERATION THAT WOULD SAVE DEFENSE FUNDS ON BOTH SIDES OF ATLANTIC WHILE LEADING TO PRODUCTION OF BETTER WEAPONS SYSTEMS FOR ALL OF US.

6. AS SPECIFIC EXAMPLE OF AREA FOR POTENTIAL COOPERATION, DELPECH NOTED "LONG RANGE SURFACE-TO-SURFACE MISSILE" DESIGNED FOR ANTI-SHIPING PURPOSES. HE UNDERLINED THAT HE WAS NOT TALKING ABOUT CRUISE MISSILES, BUT RATHER THE MORE TRADITIONAL TYPES OF ANTI-SHIPING MISSILES WHICH SEVERAL NATO COUNTRIES ALREADY HAVE UNDER DEVELOPMENT AND SOME HAVE EVEN DEPLOYED.

7. AS AN ASIDE, DELPECH PREDICTED THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL BUY A US-DESIGNED AND PRODUCED TANK AND NOT THE GERMAN LEOPARD II. HE COMMENTED THAT HIS FRG FRIENDS ARE SURPRISED AND DISTURBED BY THEIR GROWING PERCEPTION THAT FINAL US DECISION ON ITS FUTURE MAIN BATTLE TANK WILL GO AGAINST GERMAN TANK. DELPECH SAID GERMANS SHOULD NOT BE SURPRISED AT ALL, BECAUSE THIS IS PRECISELY THE WAY HE WOULD EXPECT UNITED STATES TO BEHAVE ON A MATTER OF THIS IMPORTANCE. HE MADE CLEAR THAT HIS COMMENT WAS-PEJORATIVE BUT SIMPLY A REFLECTION OF THE WAY GREAT POWERS VIEW THEIR OWN INTERESTS WITH REGARD TO THE FUNDAMENTALS OF NATIONAL ARMAMENT PRODUCTION. FRANCE, HE SAID, HAS THE SAME VIEW. NEVERTHELESS, HE CONCLUDED, "REAL OPPORTUNITIES" EXIST FOR GREATER COOPERATION AMONG EUROPEANS AND BETWEEN U.S. AND FRANCE.

8. COMMENT: WE RECOMMEND A CLOSE READING OF DELPECH'S STATEMENT AT ROME. IT IS LUCID GOF POLICY STATEMENT ON INTEROPERABILITY, STANDARDIZATION AND EUROPEAN ARMAMENT COOPERATION. IT EVEN CONTAINS SEVERAL DIRECT QUOTES WHICH SEEM TO COME FROM RECENT DOD POSTURE STATEMENT. INCIDENTALLY, WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING

THE 10 COPIES OF THAT POSTURE STATEMENT REQUESTED IN  
REF C.  
RUSH

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## Message Attributes

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